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Russian Science: Even TV Sets Are Better

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Washington, Nov. 2—Russia is now producing television sets superior to our own and is making big strides in color TV, says a hitherto secret report by top U. S. intelligence experts on the extent of Soviet scientific achievement.

The report also said Russia is training an "elite" corps of 15,000 scientists and engineers from Red China, the satellite countries and some neutral nations in a laboratory near Moscow. They are to carry back to their native lands both technical knowledge and Communist doctrine.

The data was presented to the State Dept. and to the President's Committee on Scientists and Engineers on Oct. 4, only a few hours before the Russians announced the launching of Sputnik.

The information was made available by Dr. Herbert Scoville Jr., a principal aide of Central Intelligence Agency chief Allen Dulles.

This correspondent has known of the report for several weeks but at the request of representatives of the President's committee did not make it public. It was officially released yesterday by the committee but unbrieffed newspapermen were inclined to dismiss it lightly at first.

The press associations stressed only that Dr. Scoville had informed the government that "it wouldn't surprise us if such an announcement (Sputnik) came at any time."

"We must be prepared for it. They are capable of doing these things," Dr. Scoville said at the time.

In the extract of his report some sections are still being withheld for security reasons—there is a notation that Dr. Scoville was asked if the Russians were "more capable" of launching an earth satellite than we are.

He replied that they were "not more capable but probably more determined."

Soviet determination to outstrip us has produced some startling results, according to U. S. intelligence.

The Russians, the CIA official said, are putting heavy emphasis on "practical" or applied science but they are not doing it at the expense of basic science training. This is in contrast to U. S. economies in basic research.

"However," Dr. Scoville reported, "literature, history, etc., are being weakened as a result."

On the subject of Soviet strides in television, the Scoville report said:

"We might believe that TV is a field of U. S. dominance, but in Moscow alone there are 2,000,000 sets. The Russian sets are of high quality; their components are superior to our sets."

Other highlights from the CIA report:

¶Two hundred Russian scientists are studying in satellite countries.

¶Some of the satellite students "are not too pleased" with the training they are getting at the Soviet Joint Nuclear Research Institute, at Dubna, near Moscow, because "it makes them dependent on the Russian system and less able to do their own research."

¶Russian-trained scholars expect to teach at a scientific institute at Rangoon, Burma, "but the plans are not progressing as rapidly as had been expected."

¶The Russians plan to send 18 professors to a technical institute to be established at Bombay, India.

¶The Chinese students are not learning as quickly as others "because of the limited number of people who can teach."

¶There are 600,000 technicians in the Soviet civilian electronics industry compared to 700,000 in this country.

¶The one place where the Russians are still far behind us is in agriculture. According to CIA information, they lag by about 20 years.

The one serious defect in Soviet science, according to Dr. Scoville, is their inclination to "suppress initiative" at the lower levels.

"This is a quality we would

do well to stress in our system as it may offset some of the other Soviet advantages," Dr. Scoville said.

"There is no question but that the Soviets are capable of great accomplishments both in peacetime and wartime. In view of the dynamic drive on their entire scientific program, we must expect further revolutionary developments in addition to the first satellite launching," he said.

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